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NEWS RELEASE

24th April 2020

HMS URGE - 44 Heroes will be remembered on Monday 27th April at 11am

In 1941 Bridgend took part in the World War Two National Warship Week, and through raffles, whist drives and dances, raised an amazing £300,000 – enough to officially adopt the U Class submarine HMS Urge.

In a startling comparison of the support for the NHS today, the community not only adopted the submarine – but also her crew. Where possible crews would visit their adopted communities – but sadly for the crew of HMS Urge, this was never to happen. In 1942, after being ordered with other vessels to sail from Malta to Egypt, HMS Urge, with 32 crew, 11 Royal Navy passengers, and a journalist was declared missing.

The Commanding Officer of HMS was Lt Cdr Tomkinson DSO RN. Under his gallant Captaincy HMS *Urge's* crew were recognised for many successes. The first lieutenant was Lieutenant JMS Poole, DSC and Bar, RN. The Chief Petty Officer, CJJ Jackman, was awarded the DSM and Bar and mentioned in despatches three times. Sub Lieutenant Brian Lloyd came from a Bridgend family – he lost his life when courageously undertaking a special mission from the submarine. Lt Cdr Tomkinson was awarded the DSO and Bar, promotion and a mention in despatches, and had HMS Urge not been lost further awards had been intended for him.

In October 2019 the grandson of Lt Cdr Tomkinson, Mr Francis Dickinson was part of a marine archaeology project involving a search team from The University of Malta who found HMS Urge. She was sitting boldly upright on the sea bed and pointing in the direction of Alexandria – heroically carrying out her orders to the last.

The Ministry of Defence said it recognised the wreck site "as the last resting place of HMS Urge and those who lost their lives in service of their country".

Mr Dickinson and family members of several lost crew members visited Bridgend earlier this year to meet with The Mayor of Bridgend, Cllr Alan Wathan. It was a poignant meeting, and

plans for representatives from Bridgend to attend the Official Commemoration on the 27th April 2020 in Malta were made.

At 11am On Monday 27th April, with the official Commemoration in Malta postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, The Mayor of Bridgend, Cllr Alan Wathan, will stand alone and observe a two minute silence.

The Mayor said “With my Royal Naval Background I consider it an honour and a privilege to be representing the people of Bridgend, so that we may pay our final respects to the courageous and heroic people who were lost that day while serving their country. We will Remember Them”.

Mr.Dickinson said “Families and friends of those lost have great respect for Bridgend’s continuing affection for and pride in HMS Urge, which are much appreciated.”

In a stark reflection of what is happening in the UK today, dozens of family members and friends of HMS Urge’s company will form as a virtual community in the UK, Malta and around the world at 11am on the 27th April – to remember those courageous and valiant souls who were lost 78 years ago – but who will never be forgotten.

ENDS

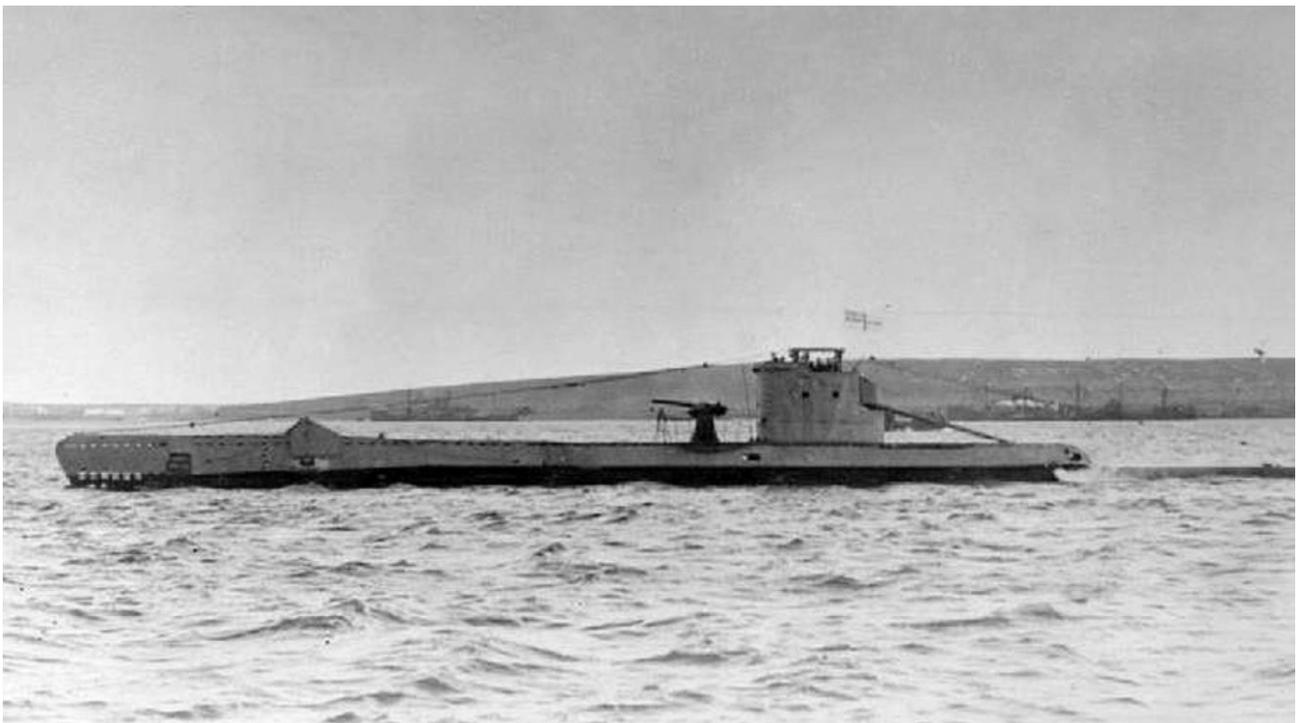
More information can be found at :

<https://www.rnsubmusfriends.org.uk/remembering-hms-urge-on-27th-april/>

All enquires to The Town Clerk :

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HMS Urge



Lieutenant-Commander Tomkinson and Mrs. Tomkinson (Image credit: Francis Dickinson)



Chief Petty Officer Charley Jackman (Image: Jackman family/NMRN)



Sub Lieutenant Brian Lloyd, a member of a Bridgend family (Image credit: Chris Lloyd)



Leading Signalman Eric Law (Image credit: Andy Law/Law family)